was renewed on March 2, 2002, after incorporating suitable modifications to the Protocol to the Treaty without changing the basis spirit and framework of the Treaty. Nepal continues to enjoy non-reciprocal duty free access for its manufacturers in the Indian market. A reasonable value addition norm of 25% in the first year and 30% in the subsequent years for zero duty access and quantitative restrictions (for zero duty access only) on some sensitive commodities has been built into the Protocol with a view to ensuring that provisions of the Treaty facilitate the accrual of the benefits of the Treaty to genuine industries of Nepal and are not abused by unscrupulous economic operatives to the detriment of the Indian industry. The India-Nepal Trade Treaty remains one of the most liberal Treaties found any where in the world.

2. The existing Treaty of Extradition between India and Nepal was signed on October 2, 1953, and needs to be updated in the light of current international practices and the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, to which both India and Nepal are signatories. With this objective Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal Commenced discussions in Kathmandu on February 16-19, 2003. The two sides have decided to continue their discussions in New Delhi at an early date with a view to finalizing the Treaty expeditiously.

Withdrawal from International Hockey Tournament

3656. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to stay away from an International Hockey Tournament in Malaysia to protest over the action of Malaysian police against some Indian IT professionals;

(b) if so, whether Government consider using sports as an instrument of achieving foreign policy objectives; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) The recent incident involving the arrest and detention of 195 Indian IT professionals by the Malaysian Police raised concerns about the security of Indians in Malaysia. Accordingly, it was decided to advise against the visit of the official Indian

Hockey Team to participate in the Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament in Malaysia as a measure of abundant caution, so that their presence in Malaysia did not become an occasion for additional irritants in our bilateral relations.

Deportation of UAE criminals

3657. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand from UAE Government for deportation of the criminals who have taken shelter in India;

(b) if so, the number of such criminals; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) The Government of UAE has in the past sought fugitives of Indian nationality who purportedly had escaped to India after committing crimes in the UAE. The bilateral Extradition Treaty which came into effect on 29 May, 2000 prohibits either side from extraditing its own nationals. Post Extradition Treaty there is no pending request from UAE for extradition/deportation of any non-Indian to the UAE.

Sufferings of Indians in Malaysia

3658. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sufferings of the other Indian workers in Malaysia in additiion to more than 200 I.T. professionals who were raided by Malaysian police;

(b) if so, whether the Indian High Commission in Malaysia has taken up the grievances of both the I.T. professionals as well as the unskilled Indian workers working in Malaysia; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the results achieved thereby?